

## CHAPTER TWO

# TROUBLESHOOTING

The troubleshooting procedures described in this chapter provide typical symptoms and logical methods for isolating the cause(s). There may be several ways to solve a problem, but only a systematic approach will be successful in avoiding wasted time and possibly unnecessary parts replacement.

Gather as much information as possible to aid in diagnosis. Never assume anything and do not overlook the obvious. Make sure there is fuel in the tank. Make sure the fuel shutoff valve is in the on position. If the motorcycle has been sitting for any length of time, fuel deposits may have gummed up the carburetor jets. Gasoline loses its volatility after standing for long periods and water condensation may have diluted the gas. Drain the old gas and fill the tank with fresh gas. Make sure the engine stop switch is in the run position. Make sure the spark plug wire is connected securely to the spark plug.

If a quick check does not reveal the problem, proceed with one of the troubleshooting procedures described in this chapter. After defining the symptoms, follow the procedure that most closely relates to the condition(s).

In most cases, expensive and complicated test equipment is not needed to determine whether repairs can be performed at home. A few simple checks could prevent an unnecessary repair charge

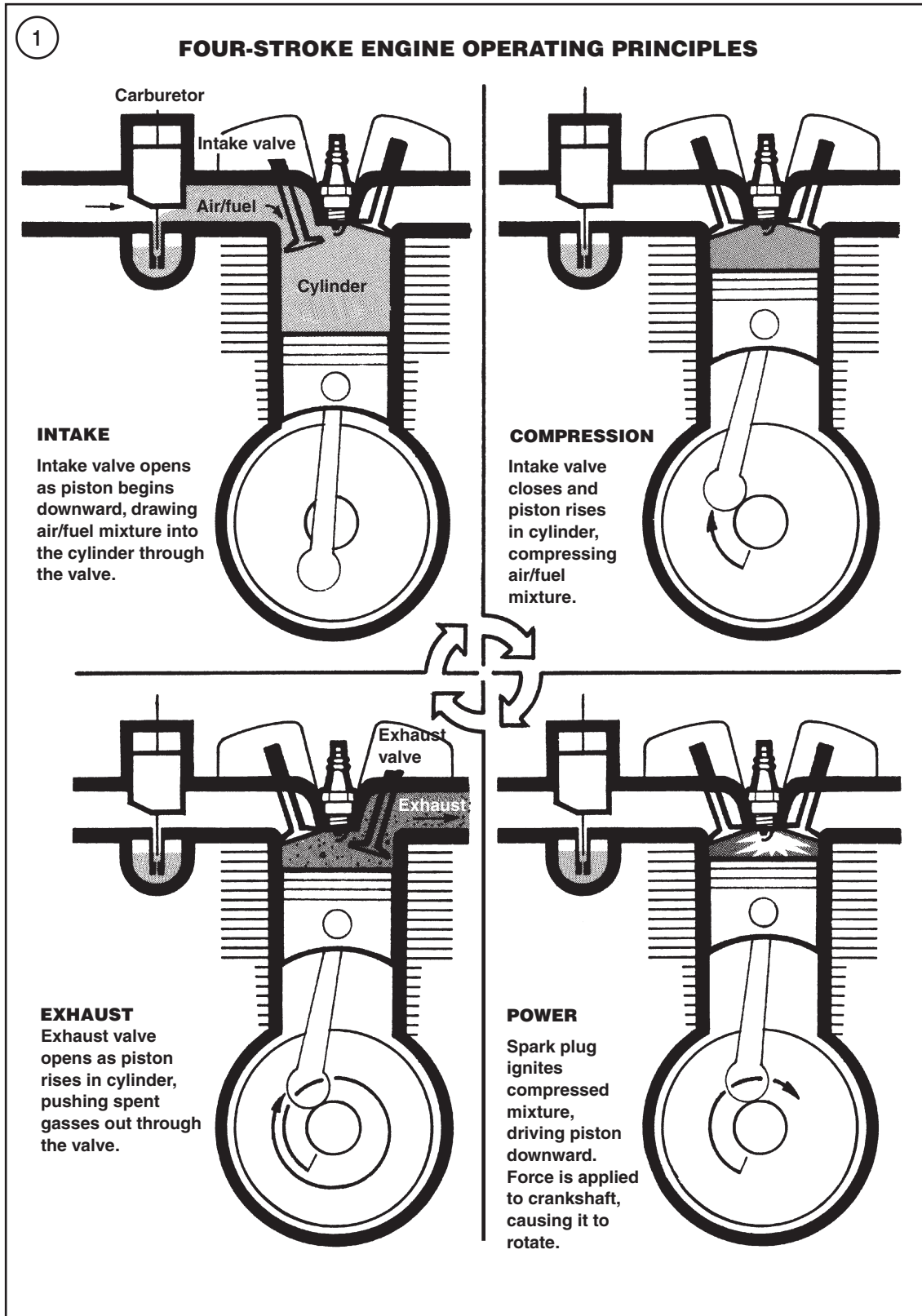
and lost time while the motorcycle is at a dealership's service department. On the other hand, be realistic and do not attempt repairs beyond personal capabilities. Many service departments will not accept work that involves the reassembly of damaged or abused equipment; if they do, expect the cost to be high.

If the ATV does require the attention of a professional, describe symptoms and conditions accurately and fully. The more information a technician has available, the easier it will be to diagnose the problem.

Following the lubrication and maintenance schedule described in Chapter Three can reduce the need for troubleshooting by eliminating possible problems before they occur. However, even with the best of care the ATV may require troubleshooting.

## OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

An engine needs three basics to run properly: correct air/fuel mixture, compression and a spark at the right time. If one basic requirement is missing, the engine will not run. Refer to **Figure 1** for four-stroke engine operating principles.



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